

The CALL

April 2016

Our Saviour's Sundays: Worship at 10:30 a.m.

with Sunday School and Word & World at 9:30 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Love > Fear

The other day when I was driving downtown, I noticed a bumper sticker on the car in front of me. It simply said, "Love > Fear". It was a basic message but it impressed me to see someone choose this sticker to share with the world. As Christians, this message is at the root of who we are and what we are all about. Jesus came into the world not to condemn it, but to befriend it and heal it. One of his most important messages was, "Do not be afraid". Fear has a way of bringing out the worst in humanity and Jesus was well aware of the consequences of living in fear. Fear has an adverse effect on generosity and causes people to turn inward on themselves. Communities in fear, tend to turn inward and further from the needs of others. Communities in fear are more prone to violence.

Jesus famously said in the Gospel of Luke that the Law of God is quite simple. He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Another effect of fear is that it affects our ability to love. When we live in fear, we have a tougher time loving God and loving our fellow human beings. Fear causes us to fail at loving our non-human neighbors, like the trees and the animals.

I imagine that many of you would agree with me that we are living in a time of fear. We live in fear of global terrorism, fear of war, fear of political tensions, fear of change, fear of the

unknown to name a few.

On Easter, we celebrated God's victory over death and what it means for us as human beings. The death transcending power of Jesus was not gifted to us in order for us to live lives in fear. The promise and reality of Easter is the anti-dote to fear. The Christian life, calls us into lives that are marked by love and not fear. To follow Christ in love means to promote peace and compassion in times of fear. To follow Christ in times of fear requires resisting the urge to blame or to turn to anger.

One major issue at the forefront of these fearful times is the current scape goating of Muslim Americans. In response to unspeakable events around the world (and at home) at the hands of extremists, many Americans have chosen to unfairly associate all followers of Islam with a terrorist threat. Recognizing this problem and the need to speak to it, a Lutheran Pastor and his Muslim friend met for a cup of tea. Over tea, they decided that what was needed were more opportunities for relationships between Muslims and Christians. They decided to create an event titled, "Love In A Time of Fear: Christians, Muslims and All Faiths As Good Neighbors". This event provides space for Christians and others to hear the stories from Muslim Americans first hand. It is hard to stereotype someone when you have become their friend and heard their story of faith. Wherever we stand politically, as Christians, we are called to love and not fear. I encourage you to consider coming to the event at 7:00 p.m. on April 11, at Bellingham High School and see for yourselves the power of love over fear.

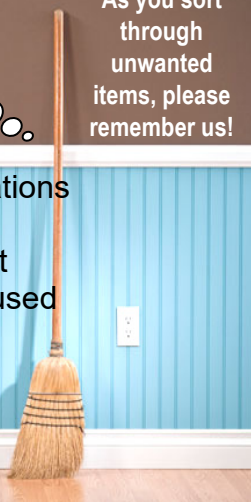
In Peace, Pastor Joel

Spring Cleaning?



As you sort through unwanted items, please remember us!

We are always accepting donations in our fellowship hall rummage room. Please keep in mind that items should be clean, gently used (or still working) and packaged safely. Glass items should be wrapped or in boxes. We have empty boxes available if you need some. Thanks so much!



COMMUNITY MEAL



Our next meal with friends and neighbors is on Sunday, April 17 from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us and bring a guest. You're sure to meet someone new.

In March, we had close to 100 guests who enjoyed an Irish style dinner with corned beef, potatoes, carrots, salad and bread. Thanks to Carol Cozad and Kate Nichols who cooked for us all. Our donations almost always match the number of people that show up! It is a self sustaining mission with many hands and hearts that put forth the effort each month. We are always looking for volunteers and menu ideas.

Rainy Day Play

Wednesday, April 13, at Our Saviour's.

This will be our final gathering, as Rory "graduates" to preschool next year.

Grab your play mate and meet with us for fun in the fellowship hall between 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Hosts Becky and Rory Langholz look forward to seeing friends and meeting new ones. Spread the word!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 1 Roman
- April 11 Alec
- April 13 Pam
- April 15 Darlene
- April 16 Melanie
- April 18 Mary Jo



Happy Anniversary to



Don & Darlene

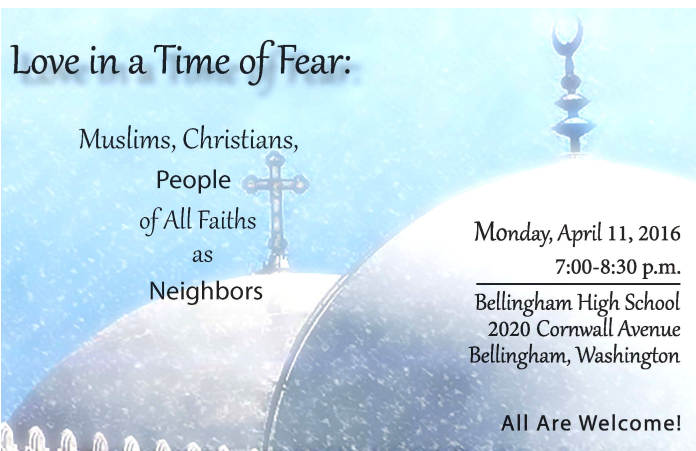
April 28
44 years

Women of the ELCA

Our next luncheon is on Thursday, April 7, at 12:00 p.m. noon for lunch and program at 12:45 p.m. Shannon Williamson, the new director for Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) will be our guest speaker. Shannon will share her faith journey and how she ended up at Love INC. Love INC is one of Our Saviour's missions, and we will hear about all they do for people in our community.

Please reply to the invite that Amy (in the office) will be sending out by email so we will have a count for the luncheon.





How will the human race navigate through the challenges that face us? Our response is ‘love of neighbor’. Love of neighbor is the core teaching of Islam, Christianity and all great faith traditions. Love is not having positive feelings but rather the act of seeking the well-being of your neighbor.

We are people of faith respecting our differences and celebrating our commonalities and

our common humanity. In this time of anxiety and tension we encourage:

1. All people to seek out neighborly relationships with Muslims.
2. All people to stand against extreme and exclusive forms of religious or political ideologies that lead to dehumanization of and violence toward others.
3. All people in this time of anxiety to resist the urge to stereotype and scapegoat minorities, including Muslims.
4. All people, corporations and governmental agencies to respect the human and civil rights of all people, including Muslims.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Washington University, the Catacomb Churches, and American Muslims of Puget Sound, The Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA and The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Your Church Council met on Tuesday, March 8. The task force established to pursue the sale of the parsonage reported that three appraisers had been contacted and that proposals were received from each. The Council approved a motion to appoint Ray Palletti to perform the appraisal. He had been recommended by Jon Soine.

Also, the task force established to offer Our Saviour’s House to the Interfaith Coalition (IC) on very favorable terms had an informal conversation with IC representatives to present the concept in general. The response from IC was that it was not in a position to spend more than is presently being paid each month to our church for the property.

The Council then approved a motion to invite Jon Soine to join the parsonage sale task force because of his experience as a local realtor. The task force stated that a meeting is expected before the next Council meeting to review the appraisal report.

John
Council President

OFFICE TIDBITS

✓ A spring issue of The Word in Season, Daily Devotional, is now available for April, May and June. Large print and regular copies can be found in the Narthex.

✓ Our vintage sale at the Lynden fairgrounds was quite a success! We were able to sell \$1100 worth of merchandise. Thank you for all your help, support and donations. We were able to sell tax free and promote our many missions.

THANK YOU CORNER

Thank You for your donations during lent for God’s Global Barnyard through ELCA. As a church we were able to raise \$356.22. We will be selecting animals soon that will profoundly benefit families in third world countries.

Thanks to the Ukrainian church that meets at Our Saviour’s for their willingness to take on the lawn mowing and gardening duties. We have made an agreement for a reduction in rent.

Thank You to everyone who helped with our Lent season and Easter Sunday celebrations. There were many hands that worked behind the scenes during this special time of year.

READINGS FOR MARCH

| DATE | FIRST READING | PSALM | SECOND READING | GOSPEL READING |
|----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| April 3 Easter 2 | Acts 5:27-32 The Apostles Are Persecuted | Psalm 118:14-29 <i>You are my God, and I will exalt you.</i> | Revelation 1:4-8 Introduction and Salutation | John 20:19-31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples |
| April 10 Easter 3 | Acts 9:1-6 The Conversion of Saul | Psalm 30 <i>You have turned my wailing into dancing.</i> | Revelation 5:11-14 The Scroll and the Lamb | John 21:1-19 Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples |
| April 17 Easter 4 | Acts 9:36-43 Peter in Lydda and Joppa | Psalm 23 <i>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.</i> | Revelation 7:9-17 The Multitude from Every Nation | John 10:22-30 Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews |
| April 24 Easter 5 | Acts 11:1-18 Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem | Psalm 148 <i>The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.</i> | Revelation 21:1-6 The New Heaven and the New Earth | John 13:31-35 The New Commandment |
| | | | | |

CAMPUS MINISTRY



**Coffee, Donuts & Conversation
Thursdays, Noon in Red Square**

MANNA "Bread From the Sky"



A ministry of homemade pizza and faith discussion. Join us!
April 10, 6:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Kitchen



for these ministries:

- * Camp Lutherwood
- * ECHOES (ELCA mission for the unchurched)
- * El Camino de Emaus (ELCA Latino Ministry in Burlington)
- * Interfaith Coalition (and residents of Our Saviour's House)
- * Lighthouse Mission
- * Love INC
- * Lutheran Campus Ministry
- * Lutheran Counseling Network
- * Lydia Place
- * Narcotics Anonymous (meets at OSLC on Sat. evenings)
- * Ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

WELCA HIGHLIGHT

In March we welcomed Sonja Wingard from Animals as Natural Therapy. She presented an informative, fascinating program of how animals can heal human hearts and connect with people that are otherwise unreachable.

What they do is best described on their website:

“Animals as Natural Therapy (ANT) offers healing programs based on the knowledge that animals can teach humans important life skills: respect for self and others, trust-building, and clear communication. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, ANT operates out of Windy Acres, a one-hundred-year-old, 5-acre farm situated at the edge of Bellingham, WA in Northwest Washington. Windy Acres provides a peaceful, secluded spot for our animal and human partners to practice their healing work. Over the past decade, ANT has touched the lives of thousands of children and adults.

We see young people:

- Stepping into their emotional wholeness
- Developing healthy relationships with themselves and others
- Stepping into their authenticity and personal authority
- Discovering their intelligence and imagination
- Taking positions of responsibility and leadership within their families, social groups and the larger community.

We see elders:

- Come alive interacting with our youth and our animals.

We see veterans:

- Connecting their imagination and their hearts
- Finding a place in their families and within the larger community

ANT serves many different groups of people in our community from ages 3 to 100 in a variety



of ways. Our clients are from many walks of life and come to us for a variety of reasons. About 90% of the people we serve are low income and many cannot afford the services we provide. Our goal is to not turn anyone away due to the inability to pay. We have developed a scholarship program to provide for those who need financial assistance and so far, we have met our goal every year. However, we could not do it without the generosity of the individuals and businesses in our community.”

Check out these wonderful videos on the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSxTivro-00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcYK3pwt-q5>

Website: www.animalsasnaturaltherapy.org



Another successful auction folks! We are grateful for all those who donated items on behalf of Our Saviour's and Zion Lutheran. Our spa package brought in \$800 (double it's value) and Pastor Joel's homemade pizza night earned \$600. The quilt that we donated received \$240. Bidders paid \$92 and \$62 for Penny's famous rum balls. Artist Carolyn Oltman created a wonderful oil pastel that went for \$184. Someone bought The longeberger basket (donated by Solveig) for \$104. Our Saviour's was able to add just over \$2000 of Interfaith's total of \$170,000 raised.

“Our hearts are full of gratitude for the generosity of this community. A full house last Saturday enthusiastically supported Interfaith Coalition's essential work and helped us exceed our goal through outstanding sponsors, committed donors, and caring auction-goers. More than 375 unique items were donated and auctioned off, donated by our member congregations, businesses and individuals. Thanks to our amazing volunteers and each of you! You believe that together we can change lives. We can provide emergency homes for families and help them step out of despair. We can shelter people indoors when our weather is life-threatening. We can feed people who are hungry. We can deliver resources where they are needed. As an organization of many diverse faiths, we work together to deliver hope, often challenging, but also rewarding. Homes. Shelter. Meals. Hope. It continues, thanks to you!”

THE LIGHTER SIDE



Is prayer your
STEERING WHEEL
or your
SPARE TIRE?



FAITH AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Playmates



No, not the kind with the bunny ears, the kind you had as a kid. Remember when you could just show up at your friend's door and ask if he or she could play? Pretty simple!

God created people for connection, with God, and with each other. Little people are free to connect with others repeatedly. This sets neural patterns in their brains for the rest of their lives that will allow them to form strong bonds with others later in life.

You have these pathways embedded in you. Maybe they are open and flowing. Maybe they are a bit calcified or at have been out of use.

Who are your playmates today? Who can you call and say, "Do you want to play with me?" Why don't you count them up? Yes, right now! If there are lots, sit back, smile, and feel warm. Give thanks to God. If there are few, you might be more isolated than you want to be.

God does not want you to be alone. God wants you to have playmates. Take a chance. Call someone and ask if they want to come out and play. They just might say yes.

Author Anonymous

Lutheran Counseling Network

Margaret Mary Pierce, MA, LMHCA

Therapy for Individuals and Couples, also spiritual direction.

Office at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Bellingham (360)927-6753

pierce@lutherancounseling.net



APRIL 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|--------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9:30pm NA |
| 3 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Word & World 10:30am Worship Svc. 2&3pm Communion Taken | 4 9:30am God's Quilters 11:00 Women's Bible Study | 5 2:30pm Ukulele Group #1 5:00pm Ukulele Group #2 7:00pm Ukulele Group #3 7:00pm Ukrainian Church | 6 5:45pm Allegra Choir | 7 12:00 noon WELCA Luncheon 12:00 noon LCM at WWU Red Square 7:30pm Ukrainian Choir | 8 | 9 9:30pm NA |
| 10 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Word & World 10:30am Worship Svc. 6:00pm MANNA Pizza Night | 11 9:30am God's Quilters 11:00 Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Finance Comm. | 12 2:30pm Ukulele Group #1 5:00pm Ukulele Group #2 7:00pm Ukulele Group #3 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Ukrainian Church | 13 9:30am Rainy Day Play 5:45pm Allegra Choir | 14 12:00 noon LCM at WWU Red Square 7:30pm Ukrainian Choir | 15 | 16 12:00—3:00pm Allegra Voice Recital 9:30pm NA |
| 17 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Word & World 10:30am Worship Svc. 5:00pm Community Meal | 18 9:30am God's Quilters 11:00 Women's Bible Study | 19 2:30pm Ukulele Group #1 5:00pm Ukulele Group #2 7:00pm Ukulele Group #3 7:00pm Ukrainian Church | 20 5:45pm Allegra Choir | 21 12:00 noon LCM at WWU Red Square 7:30pm Ukrainian Choir | 22 | 23 9:30pm NA |
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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1720 Harris Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office:

360-733-6749

Hours: Mon.-Thur., 9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
office@oursavioursbham.org

Pastor Joel Langholz

206-755-4219

pastorjoel@oursavioursbham.org

We're on the Web!
www.oursavioursbham.org

[www.facebook.com/
oursaviourslutheranbellingham/](https://www.facebook.com/oursaviourslutheranbellingham/)



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Our Mission Statement

*By the Grace of God, we at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church are filled with the Holy Spirit and respond to God's love by sharing the Good News with our friends and neighbors.
We go into our community and world to make a difference in the name of Jesus.*